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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/018,609	02/11/2002	Ernst Rytz	01-732	5092
7590	11/03/2005		EXAMINER	
Bachman & LaPointe Suite 1201 900 Chapel Street New Haven, CT 06510-2802			BLAKE, CAROLYN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3724	

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/018,609	RYTZ ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Carolyn T. Blake	3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 31, 2005 has been entered.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because it is difficult to view the V-ring in the figures provided. An additional drawing, such as an enlarged view showing the V-ring, guide plate, blanking punch, and counter-holder, is required.

3. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolnosky (3,570,343) in view of Haack et al (4,905,556).

Wolnosky discloses the invention substantially as claimed including a press plate (34) having a V-ring cylinder (42), which is under pressure from a V-ring cylinder (88) comprising a V-ring piston rod connected to a V-ring piston (86) disposed opposite to and in support of the V-ring (42) of the press plate (34), and a blanking punch (54) which is guided in the press plate (34) and to which a die plate (24) with counter holder is assigned at a ram (not shown), wherein the ram is supported against four compensation cylinders (66/68). In addition, Wolnosky discloses a hydraulic connection (64/90) comprising a tank (72, 92) and logic valve (82, 94).

Wolnosky fails to disclose the compensation cylinders are hydraulically connected to the V-ring cylinder. However, Haack et al disclose an apparatus for blanking wherein cylinders from the upper and lower die shoes are connected hydraulically. This connection eliminates the need for several tanks while still allowing for individualized control of the different sections with separate valves. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the cylinders of the Wolnosky device hydraulically connected, as disclosed by Haack et al, for the purpose of eliminating a tank.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolnosky in view of Haack et al as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Baltschun (6,240,818).

The Wolnosky-Haack combination fails to expressly disclose the cross-sectional area of the compensation pistons and V-ring pistons as claimed. However, Baltschun teaches the importance of equal piston areas of opposed cylinders in a blanking device in order to achieve an equilibrium state. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the pistons of the Wolnosky-Haack combination equal in cross-sectional area, as disclosed by Baltschun, for the purpose of creating an equilibrium state.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

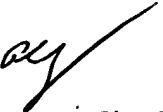
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carolyn T. Blake whose telephone number is (571) 272-4503. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on (571) 272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CB

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October 28, 2005


Allan N. Shoap
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700